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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 020411

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

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TAGS: OSCE PARM PREL KCFE

SUBJECT: VCC: POINTS FOR MARCH 6 MEETINGS

Classified by: Donna A. Phelan, VCI/CCA Acting Office Director, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (U) This is an action cable. USdel may draw from the following points during the VCC Meeting and Experts Meeting on March 6, 2009.

REPORTS ON U.S. VIENNA DOCUMENT ACTIVITIES

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¶12. (C/REL NATO) The United States conducted an above-quota, paid CFE inspection of the 36th Separate Coastal Defense Brigade (S638) at Pereval'noye, Ukraine, from 2 to 5 February 2009. Inspectors assessed the levels of holdings of TLE for the brigade were as reported by Ukraine in its CFE data declarations as of 1 January 2009, with the exception of five armored combat vehicles (ACV's). One BTR-70 armored personnel carrier (APC) had been assigned permanently to the brigade in January, one BTR-80 APC had been assigned temporarily to the brigade since January, and three armored infantry fighting vehicles (AIFV's)-one BMP-2 and two BRM-1K's-had been transferred permanently to other units. Most of the brigade's equipment was in excellent condition and well-maintained. The brigade displayed a high level of morale, discipline, and combat readiness, and inspectors assessed that the unit's equipment could be made ready for deployment within several hours.

¶13. (SBU) On 10 February 2009, a U.S.-led team with guests from Estonia and Poland conducted a Vienna Document evaluation visit of the 3rd Motorized Rifle Division (URN: S1995) at Novyy, Russia. Relations between the escort and evaluation teams were professional and cordial during the visit.

-- (SBU) The evaluation began in Nizhniy Novgorod at a Veteran's club with informative briefings from the division commander. Following the briefing the evaluation team traveled by bus to the division garrison.

-- (SBU) The Evaluation team toured a barracks, spoke with soldiers from the division, visited a dining facility, saw a static display of representational equipment, observed small arms live-fire training at the local training area, and toured the division medical facility, club, gymnasium, and museum.

-- (SBU) The personnel strength and equipment numbers provided in the briefing were consistent with the data provided by Russia in the Annual Exchange of Military Information, valid as of 1 January 2009. Differences in holdings of equipment were explained as normal fluctuations due to equipment rotation and maintenance schedules. The 3rd Motorized Rifle Division is a

permanent readiness division with a high level of readiness and a very high percentage of contract service members.

-- (SBU) All observed equipment was in good condition and is frequently used for training. All of the unit personnel that the evaluation team encountered displayed a high level of discipline and professionalism.

-- (C/REL NATO) It appeared that the division has not yet been affected by announced plans to restructure the Russian Ground Forces, which envision the elimination of division-level formations, which are to be replaced by brigades.

VIENNA DOCUMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

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¶4. (C/REL NATO) On 26 February, Kazakhstan notified military activity "Cooperation 2009" for September 2009. Therefore, the United States has changed its VD99 Inspection from calendar week 31 to calendar week 39, in order to inspect the notified activity.

AIAM

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¶5. (U) USdel should report on Allied views of the AIAM but refrain from making any commitment to further work at NATO or in the FSC on any of the proposals or suggestions made at the AIAM.

CLINTON